

beautifully illustrated by actual plates, including a photograph of the most remarkable accident which has occurred in which a sea-plane collided with and stuck in the mast of a large wireless station. A chapter on the surgery of aviation, in which he fully reports, with roentgen-ray plates, thirteen cases of "aviator's astragalus," is important.

Chapters on injuries and destructive effects of aeroplane bombs, on aeroplane dope-poisoning (tetrachlorethane poisoning, which is used in waterproofing the wings, etc.), together with a glossary of aviation terms and a complete bibliography of aviation medicine to date, complete this valuable book.

R. S. McC.

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THE OPERATIVE STUDY OF GOITRE. THE AUTHOR'S OPERATION.

By WM. F. HALSTEAD. Johns Hopkins Hospital Reports., Vol. XIX, Fasciculus 2. Pp. 257; 11 plates. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press, 1919.

HERE is told the tale of the surgeon's struggle, through many decades, to deal successfully with goitre, his failures, his partial successes and his ultimate achievement, a tale culled from wide reading in many languages and a long, broad personal experience. While the book undoubtedly will remain the authentic reference work on the subject, we believe it will not attract the many readers who expect in a book of this sort an entertaining story easily read; the "story" is too disjointed, too much a patchwork for enjoyment as a story.

The author has carefully set down synopses of all known operated cases until 1883 except for the German-speaking countries whose cases are too numerous for tabulation. Probably the earliest operation was in 1596. Although Hedenus did six excisions in the early 19th century and spilled very little blood, lay and professional opinion was strongly against surgical interference except in most urgent cases of dyspnea, until as late as 1870. It was massive hemorrhage that first checked all surgical efforts. In 1845 the Italian Porta ligated both superior and inferior arteries to cause atrophy of the gland and in 1862 the American Cooper used mass ligatures to cause reduction by sloughing. In 1866 his fellow countryman, Warren Greene, did perhaps the most important work in hemostasis. With the control of hemorrhage, the discovery of anesthesia and the acceptance of Listerism, the three greatest problems of surgery were solved and it remained to learn that in operation was a cure for hyperthyroidism, that total extirpation of the gland was followed by hypothyroidism and often by tetany and vocal cord paralysis, and finally there were developed refinements in technique, in instruments, incisions, approach to the gland and in the surgery of the

gland that placed thyroid surgery on sure ground. The greatest strides in these matters were made between 1878 and 1883 by Billroth, von Bruns, Reverdin, Mikulicz and preëminently by Kocher. The book closes with a brief statement of the author's original and important contributions to the technic of thyroid surgery.

J. A.

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WAR NEUROSES AND SHELL-SHOCK. By FREDERICK W. MOTT, M.D., LL.D., F.R.S., F.R.C.P., Brevet Lieut.-Col., R.A.M.C.; Senior Neurologist to the Maudsley Neurological Clearing Hospital, London, England. Pp. 328; 3 original colored plates and 93 illustrations. London: Henry Frowde, Oxford University Press, 1919.

COLONEL MOTT has written many articles during the war dealing with nervous and mental disorders which he came in contact with in his army hospital services. In this volume he treats on the types, causation and treatment of the various forms of "war neuroses." His studies of actual shell-shock, resulting in death without external evidence of injury, are very well presented and illustrated. He differentiates "commotional" and "emotional" shock, and quotes several of the continental authors in support of his view. In the group of the psychoneuroses he found an acquired or inborn predisposition of emotivity in a high percentage of the cases. He believes that these men did not make good front-line material and that much expense and loss of man power could have been saved to the army had they been weeded out by a more thorough medical examination by the recruiting boards. He considers a neurosis as a subconscious defence reaction to an intolerable situation, and in support of his view states that most cases of war neuroses were not associated with external wounds, and, *vice versa*, that men with somatic wounds rarely developed neuroses.

As to the true psychoses of war the author states there are none and gives many excellent arguments and facts in support of this view. The types and frequency of psychoses correspond approximately to those of peace times.

The treatment as outlined is brief and exact, but leaves much to the imagination of the reader.

The one criticism of the book is the confusing way in which the author has assembled the whole. Had the presentation been systematic the book would be much easier to read and to understand.

As a whole the volume is one of the best that has been written dealing with the neurological problems arising in the recent war.

F. H. L.